21 DATE Jan 27,109

January 20th, 2009

Mister Chairman/woman and members of the committee, my name is Pam Davis. I live with a ventilator, and have 24- hour nursing care. I live in Missoula, Montana, and am a peer counselor for Summit Independent Living.

I am here today to voice my support for SB 119, Montana Medicaid Buy-in. I would love to be able to work more but I am penalized by the system when I make over \$80 a month. This is discouraging so I would hope that you would support this bill and help create change in our system. Your support of this bill would allow us to contribute back to society and become productive citizens. We could pay our taxes.

I-102 I have lived on a Medicaid Waiver Plan for 25 years independently in my own home. My hope is that you will support case management long-term care for people with disabilities and seniors.

Also, we have advocated for people to come out of the rest home. What my care plan has done is bring two people with residency back to Montana. We share care plans and finances. We live in our own separate apartments next door to each other and share nurses.

Right now we have about 400 people waiting to come out of rest homes and into their own homes. My hope is that you would support a few more Medicaid Waver slots. Please move it forward helping us financially. No more cuts, please.

I want to thank you for the insurance you have offered all of our care-givers. What we hope is that you keep supporting us financially, so the benefits are still there.

I want to thank you very much for supporting us on these initiatives. We are grateful to you for all the support you have offered us through the years.

Sincerely,

Pamela J. Davis

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